United Nations A/RES/70/257

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 April 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 140

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 April 2016

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/70/801)]

70/257. Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006, 61/238 of 22 December 2006, 61/260 of 4 April 2007, 62/226 of 22 December 2007, 62/246 of 3 April 2008, 64/262 of 29 March 2010, 65/270 of 4 April 2011, 66/259 of 9 April 2012, 67/256 of 12 April 2013, 68/266 of 9 April 2014 and 69/275 of 2 April 2015,

Reaffirming the statute of the Unit[1] and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Unit for 2015 and programme of work for 2016[2] and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2015,[3]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2015 and programme of work for 2016;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2015;[3]

3. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the recommendations of the Unit, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

[1] Resolution 31/192, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/70/34).

[3] A/70/716.

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4. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it;

5. *Commends* the Unit on the fiftieth anniversary of its founding;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the oversight functions of the Unit in identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions within the participating organizations and providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations to improve and strengthen the governance of the United Nations as a whole;

7. *Notes* the need to enhance the effectiveness of the Unit and its system-wide oversight capability;

8. *Recognizes* that the effectiveness of the Unit system-wide is a shared responsibility of the Unit, the Member States and the secretariats of the participating organizations;

9. *Also recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the impact of the Unit on the management efficiency and transparency of the participating organizations within the United Nations system;

10. *Welcomes* the coordination of the Unit with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, and encourages those bodies to continue to share experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with other United Nations audit and oversight bodies, as well as with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, with a view to avoiding overlap or duplication and achieving further synergy, cooperation, effectiveness and efficiency, without prejudice to the respective mandates of the audit and oversight bodies;

11. *Requests* the heads of participating organizations to make full use of the web-based system of the Unit and to provide an in-depth analysis of how the recommendations of the Unit are being implemented;

12. *Invites* the Unit, as appropriate, to develop indicators to measure system-wide efficiency and effectiveness achieved as a result of the implementation of its recommendations and to report thereon in the context of its future reports;

13. *Recalls* paragraph 107 of its resolution 70/247 of 23 December 2015, and reiterates its requests to the Secretary-General to consider options for hosting the website of the Unit in-house and to report on this matter in the context of the forthcoming report on the implementation of the information and communications strategy for the Secretariat;

14. *Reaffirms* article 20 of the statute of the Unit,[1] in which it is stipulated that the Unit shall be invited to be represented at meetings when its budget estimates are being discussed;

15. *Welcomes* the continued reform efforts undertaken by the Unit to better serve the interests of the participating organizations and Member States, and encourages the Unit to continue its efforts in this regard;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to consider optimizing the number of projects in its programme of work through prioritization;

17. *Notes with concern* the long-vacant posts in the Unit, and stresses the importance of expediting all recruitment processes and filling posts in a timely manner;

18. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to issue its reports in all the official languages of the United Nations, well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized in their deliberations.

90th plenary meeting
1 April 2016